



Black Sea SCENE

Regional Project of the Black Sea Scientific Network

Information Brochure 2008

Final project year

The Black Sea SCENE, a three-year joint effort of 25 partners from Black Sea countries: Ukraine (5), Russia (7), Turkey (3), Romania (2), Bulgaria (4), Georgia (4), together with 7 partners from EU member states (6) and (1) Associated State is in its final stage of implementation. The Black Sea SCENE, supported by the EU 6FP as a research infrastructure coordinating activity, is part of the efforts of the scientific community and the regional public to develop an Internet based data and information infrastructure to be maintained and utilized by the leading environmental and socio-economic research institutes, universities and NGO's from the countries around the Black Sea.



Support to research and decision making

A sustainable Internet-based service BlackSeaScene InfoNet is now available as part of the Black Sea SCENE. Scientists, decision makers, industries, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, as well as the public in the Black Sea countries are now in a position to be better informed and better prepared to approach issues related to the Black Sea.

The 25 project partners, in the course of the final project year, developed a number of products mainly catalogues but also tools to support the research in and around the Black Sea. The products are closely related to those within SeaDataNet, but are developed by the Black Sea SCENE partners specifically for Black Sea SCENE purposes. They cover search applications of catalogues with Datasets, Projects, Scientists, Reports, a DQC inventory etc.

Users of the research infrastructure will be able to manage and to operate central indices and database of information on the Black Sea hosted by institutes around it. The service will also facilitate harmonization in quality and formats, storing and retrieving of Black Sea information for use by Black Sea SCENE partners, scientific users and the public.

The information service will be maintained and updated with newly acquired information from the partners as part of a long-term service agreement. The technical hosting of the services will be maintained to extend the impact of the system. Black Sea SCENE will be upgraded within the EU Fp7.



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Project products section

During the last year of the Black Sea SCENE project a large number of interesting products regarding Black Sea SCENE scientific activities have been launched or will be launched in the near future. The products are developments of the project partners and cover search applications of catalogues with Datasets, Projects, Scientists, Reports etc, a DQC inventory and more.

The products are aimed to make Black Sea scientific information and data easier traceable by scientists and the general public. The developments are:

CDI - Access to data based via a metadata search based on Common Data Index (CDI) format.

Data Quality Control -Information about Data Quality Control procedures for datasets collected and available tool to statistically filter data

EDMED - Marine and Environmental Dataset catalogue

EDMERP - Marine and Environmental Project catalogue

EDMO - Directory of Marine Organisations active in Black Sea region

CSR - Directory of Marine Research Cruises in the Black Sea

Scientists - Directory of Marine Scientists active in Black Sea region

Bibliography - Scientific Reports and Publications on the Black Sea

Socio Economic Data on the Black Sea

Mnemiopsis leidyi Database - A database of a small but harmful type of jellyfish, abundant in the Black Sea

Black Sea Zooplankton Checklist - A species list and identification checklist (in Wiki-form) of zooplankton in the Black Sea

Black Sea Phytoplankton Checklist - A species list and identification checklist (in Wiki-form) of phytoplankton in the Black Sea

Black Sea data products - An overview of specific data products developed under SeaDataNet by Black Sea partners.

Black Sea SCENE (BlackSeaScene) partly has its own content management system (CMS) - for Scientists, SED, Bibliography and the biological catalogues and checklists, and relies for its other

directories (datasets, projects, organizations, cruises) on the centrally maintained SeaDataNet directories and maintenance system.

Black Sea HOT'2008



The 2nd Biannual and Black Sea SCENE project joint conference entitled 'Climate Change in the Black Sea Hypothesis, Observations, Trends' Scenarios and Mitigation Strategy for the Ecosystem' was held in the Bulgarian capital Sofia 6-9 October, 2008. The event was jointly organized by the Black Sea Commission and the Black Sea SCENE project EC 6th FP, with support from the Institute of Oceanology Varna, GEF/UNDP Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project, Balkan Environmental Association, TUDAV Istanbul University under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Water Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Conference venue was Park-Hotel Moskva, Sofia, Bulgaria.

The event was part of the promotion and dissemination activities of the Black Sea SCENE. The conference aimed to initiate a concerted effort to use science, information technology and policy measures to understand and deal with the consequences of global warming in the Black Sea region. The scientific forum provided significant information to be utilized in the efforts towards better governance, sustainable exploitation of resources and conservation of the marine environment. Over 200 participants from 18 countries took part. The four sessions of the conference were devoted to: climate forcing mechanisms in the Black Sea; the Black Sea ecosystem responses to climate change; data availability and data base management in view of the Black Sea SCENE project and related information infrastructures; and the economic and sociological impacts on the coastal Black Sea communities and resource users management scenarios and measures. Information of the conference and presentations from it are available on the website of the Black Sea commission at <http://www.blacksea-commission.org/bs-hot/>.

Information for the public

Ten small chapters of descriptive information have been prepared by the BSNN as part of the project promotion and dissemination activities. It is designed to service the general public. Within this part in simple understandable language information and explanation is given about: the present state.

The chapters are entitled as follows: 'The Black Sea' contains seven items describing in summarized form the unique inland body of water, its position in relation to the world ocean, the specific connection of the water body to the world ocean, the amount and quality of the waters it receives, situation, coastline, seabed, climate and specific environmental vulnerability features. 'General physical geographic data on the Black Sea' includes items: area, greatest length along the parallel, greatest width along the meridian, catchment basin area, maximum depth, average depth, seasonal level variations, volume, volume of the hydrogen sulphide zone, volume of the oxygen zone, wave height, wave length, tidal variations, salinity of seawater at the surface, salinity of seawater at the bottom, mean average winter temperatures of seawater, mean average summer temperatures of seawater, the largest bays, the largest capes, the largest islands, the largest rivers flowing into the Black Sea.

Problem areas and biodiversity

'Unique body of water' describes in summarized items the unique hydrological characteristics of the Black Sea and the mechanism of its fresh water balance and stratification. Salinity, water density and the anoxic zone of the sea are also addressed there in relation to biodiversity. 'The health of the sea' describes in summary the most significant causes of the Black Sea's environmental decline identifying sources and mechanisms of pollution with an emphasis on the process of eutrophication and its significance for the health of the sea. 'Major problem areas' focuses on the major environmental issues such as pollution, loss of biodiversity and coastal degradation attempting to prioritize major sources of pollution with emphasis on regional

aspects and problems. In recent years chemical pollution has been identified as the most serious transboundary problem as indicated in the most recent version of the trans-boundary diagnostic analysis. The chapter 'Marine and coastal ecosystems' gives information about the biodiversity of the Black Sea and about the threats to biodiversity. It provides a brief overview of the various species and the changes they experience with the degradation of the marine environment. The depletion the Black Sea living marine resources is indicated in the chapter.

The coast

'Problems with coastal zone management' provides summarized description of the coastal zone and its specific role in protecting the sea and sea life. It provides information about the habitats of plants and species, about the influence of the state of the coast on the life of the coastal communities and the visitors. The significance of the quality of the coastal waters to the health of the population and to the economic success of the tourist industry is emphasized. The process of Integrated Coastal Zone Management is described and its significance is emphasized. 'Protection and rehabilitation' provides a brief summary of the regulatory instruments, donor interventions and prospects for development in the regulatory field related to the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea.



Help the Black Sea Now!

is the section addressing the issue of what the general public can do to help protect the Black Sea. It is in the form of a pledge provided in a readily accessible form that can be understood by every visitor to the website. The six simple actions in the pledge present various types of activities that can be performed by every concerned citizen. The pledge is very good for educational and awareness raising activities. A 'Submit' button can be used to count people taking the pledge, who can be divided by countries. The pledge was developed in 2006 as part of the set of materials for the tenth anniversary of BSAD, celebrated within the GEF/UNDP Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project. It used to be part of the project website, associated with the Black Sea Commission in Istanbul. To the great discontent of the regional public that site is not operational now. Black Sea Scene can support and possibly develop this interactive public awareness tool. The final chapter Black Sea SCENE provides information about the project, participants, significance of data and metadata, significance of free access to quality data and its significance to science, monitoring, decision making, planning, prognostication and policy development, which all are related to sustainability and development.

Black Sea SCENE partners

- Marine Information Service, Leidschendam, The Netherlands
- International Bureau of Environmental Studies, Brussels, Belgium
- Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Maritime Branch, Gdynia, Poland
- Norwegian Institute of Water Research, Oslo, Norway
- Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research, National Geological survey, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- Fieldware International Ecological Development plc., Newbury, United Kingdom
- Ukrainian Scientific Centre of the Ecology of Sea, Odessa, Ukraine
- Marine Hydro-physical Institute of Ukrainian National Academy of Science, Sevastopol, Ukraine
- Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Ecological Problems, Kharkiv, Ukraine
- Odessa National University, Odessa, Ukraine
- Moscow State University. Moscow, Russian Federation
- State Oceanographic Institute, Russian Federal Service "Rosgidromet", Moscow, Russian Federation
- Southern Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Science, Gelendzhik, Russian Federation
- P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, Russian Federation
- Institute of Limnology Russian Academy of Science, St. Petersburg, Russian federation
- Space Research Institute Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, Russian Federation
- All Russian Research Institute of Hydro-meteorological Information – World Data Centre B, Obninsk, Russian Federation
- Middle East Technical University, Institute of Marine Sciences, Erdemli, Turkey
- Sinop Fisheries Faculty of Ondokuz Mayıs University, Sinop, Turkey
- Black Sea Technical University of Marine Sciences, Trabzon, Turkey
- Institute of Oceanology Bulgarian Academy of Science, Varna, Bulgaria
- Technical University Varna, Varna, Bulgaria
- Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Varna, Bulgaria
- National Institute for Marine Research and Development "GRIGORE ANTIPA", Constanta, Romania

Editorial team: Emma Gileva, Ralitsa Zhekova, Aleksandar Shivarov, photo: © Krasimir Delchev, design: Iliya Iliev

Contact information:

Black Sea NGO Network
P. O. Box 91
2 Dr. L. Zamenhof St., fl. 2
BG-9000 Varna, Bulgaria
tel.: +359 (52) 615-856
fax: +359 (52) 602-047
e-mail: bsnn@bsnn.org
<http://www.bsnn.org>

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